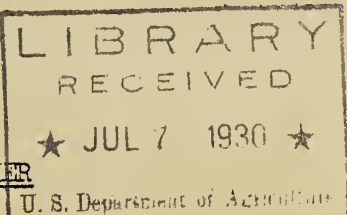


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ATTRACTIVE LIVING PORCHES FOR SUMMER

A radio talk by Bess M. Viemont, assistant specialist in clothing, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through WRC and 34 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, Friday, June 20, 1930.

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These hot summer days make us want to move out-of-doors, to literally live on the porch. Busy folks are inclined to think of a porch as a place to spend leisure, to do mending, or to read the paper. But more and more it is being used for other purposes. Many families have one or all of their meals on the porch and are happier for it. Certainly a breakfast on a cool, shady, porch puts you in a better humor for the day than the same food served in a dining room indoors.

Today I want to tell you about two families who were "porch-conscious" and made the most of what they had. The first family, the Adamses, live in a small town but their porch would be equally suitable for the farm or the suburban home. It extends across one side of the house. The living room opens on to one end, and from the other end the kitchen can be reached through a short hallway. You see this arrangement makes the porch easily accessible from any part of the house.

But to make it the most useful during the day and evening too, some kind of screens were necessary. Jimmy Adams, the 16-year old son, made frames to fit the openings between the porch columns and then painted them a leaf green. Mrs. Adams debated whether she should buy expensive wire screens that would last for several years or whether she should select a cheaper material. Finally she decided to use mosquito netting. It is just as effective as wire screens in keeping out flies and bugs, is much less costly, and besides it comes in many beautiful colors. She chose a bright gold piece because the porch is very shaded and a little dark, and because it makes such a lovely background for the trellis of honeysuckle and clematis. On the living end of the porch Mrs. Adams placed a brown grass rug bordered with gold stripes. The chairs had slip covers of brightly figured cretonne. Purple sateen, the color of the clematis blossoms, was selected for one cushion in the swing, another was of gold, and the third was of green. Electric wires were extended from the floor outlets in the living room so that the porch could be lighted and made as usable at night as in the daytime.

This porch proved to be such a delightful spot that it was the gathering place for people in that part of town. Most any time during the day one or two neighbors would run over to shell peas, string beans or darn socks while they talked over the news and the fashions. Jimmy's friends thought the Adams radio quite the best of any and some of them were there every night. Even the cronies of Mr. Adams enjoyed their evening cigars more here than at home.

My other friends, the Clarks live on a farm. For many years Mr. Clark and the girls dreaded summer and thought each hotter than the one before. They longed to have a cool, breezy back porch where they could work and have the meals during hot weather. Last summer Mr. Clark tore off the back door step and built

a large porch in its place. He screened it in, and it seemed to be just what they wanted. But after a few days Mr. Clark noticed his wife still worked in the kitchen a good part of the time and that they ate supper in the dining room as always. He was somewhat disappointed to learn that she did not enjoy the new porch as much as she had expected. True, it was a comfortable place to prepare vegetables and to wash the milk separator but it seemed too drab and uninteresting for a dining porch. Confident that it could be made an inviting place for the summer meals, one of the girls tried painting an old table and some chairs to use on it. These made such a difference that she painted the screen frames the same pale green. Yellow and white hollyhocks and pink morning glories were planted at the east end where the sun shone in. At the other end they put up a rack for the old trumpet vine.

While shopping one day Mrs. Clark found a piece of plaid waterproof material in green, yellow, and pink on a cream background. It was just the thing for seat pads on the green chairs. She bought enough to make the pads, and also to cut doilies for the table so that tablecloths could be eliminated. That same day in one of the stores she found paper napkins in delightful pastel colors. There were yellow ones with orange borders, pink ones with rose, and lavender squares edged with purple. Mrs. Clark purchased several packages and used them for all meals. They save the linen ones that require so much time to launder.

The final touch to the porch's new dress was added when black tapes tied the cushions in place, and a black vase of an interesting shape held fresh flowers from the garden. A wonderful change has been made in this old, unattractive back porch with very little expense, except for the screens. This year instead of dreading the hot weather the Clarks are looking forward to the first meal on their summer dining porch.